



Fact Sheet

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) The Federal Tax Credit for Working Families

Dear Neighbor:

Ohio families are missing out on a valuable tax benefit for working Americans. I am committed to changing that.

Almost half of Ohio's individual tax return filers are eligible for the EITC, a federal tax credit that recognizes the economic contributions of working families. But 25% of eligible Ohioans did not claim the EITC in 2000. According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), \$181,529,600 that could have been refunded to Ohio families in 2000 stayed in Washington instead. These dollars need to reach the families who deserve them.

If your family earned less than \$35,400 in 2004, you may be eligible. The EITC amount depends on things like earned income, total income, and family size, but the maximum credit for 2004 is \$4,300. Even if you did not claim the EITC in the past, you can amend earlier returns and claim the credit.

Visit my Website (www.house.gov/sherrodbrown) for an instant, online estimate of what the EITC might be worth to you. Then download IRS' *Earned Income Credit* publication (Publication 596), which provides more details. The back of this letter lists IRS contacts who can answer your questions or help you request or download Publication 596.

Feel free to share this information with other Ohio families, and please do not hesitate to call with questions about the EITC. Thank you for your interest in this important tax benefit for working families.

Your Congressman,

Sherrod Brown
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EITC and Federal Tax Resources



U.S. Internal Revenue Service

Refund Status — Call 1-800-829-4477. You must have filed your return at least 4 weeks ago to get a status update.

General Federal Tax Questions — Call 1-800-829-1040. Live operator assistance is available 9:00 am through 5:00 pm during tax season. Recorded answers to general questions are available 24 hours a day.

Online Assistance — Visit www.irs.gov. IRS has a great website, with contact information, a knowledge base, downloadable tax forms and detailed publications that can help you navigate your tax return.

Forms Hotline — Call 1-800-829-3676. If you do not have Internet access, you can still get IRS forms toll-free by phone.



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

IRS partners with volunteers to provide information and tax assistance to working families and seniors. IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) services can help you prepare and file your federal tax return. The IRS or my office can provide a list of area VITA and TCE locations.



U.S. Congressman Sherrod Brown

If you experience difficulty working with the IRS or getting the answers you need, let me help.

Online: www.house.gov/sherrodbrown

E-Mail: sherrod@mail.house.gov

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205 West 20th Street, Suite M230
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